



Associated Press Radiophoto

ASSAILS U. S.: Dr. Otto John during news conference yesterday in Soviet sector of Berlin. The former West German security chief explained why he defected to Communists.

John Says U.S.-Bonn Policy Will Restore Nazi Control

By M. S. HANDLER

Special to The New York Times.

BONN, Germany, Aug. 11—Dr. Otto John said today he had defected to East Germany because he was convinced the policies of the United States and West German Govern-

ments ultimately would result in the renazification and remilitarization of Germany. He said their purpose was to wage a disastrous Western military crusade against communism.

[In Washington Allen W. Dulles, head of the Central Intelligence Agency, said Dr. John's remarks were "sheer Soviet propaganda." Henry Suydam, State Department spokesman, denied any secret agreement with West Germany, as charged by Dr. John.]

Three hundred correspondents from Western and Eastern countries crowded into the East Berlin Presse Haus to see and hear the former West German intelligence chief in his first public appearance since his disappearance from West Berlin July 20.

Dr. John wore a dark blue suit, white shirt, and a red tie. He appeared to be rather grim under the powerful lights that illuminated the platform of the theatre in which the conference was held.

Replies Short and Sharp

The former West German intelligence chief relaxed, however, as he read his prepared statement to the correspondents. He answered correspondents' questions for an hour, and his replies were short and sharp.

Dr. John was accompanied by Wilhelm Girnus, a member of the East German Committee for German Unity. Herr Girnus sat next to Dr. John throughout the proceedings. An East German security officer identified as Colonel Bormann also was present at the press conference.

In his prepared statement, Dr. John said he had accepted the office of security chief in 1950 because he believed the new Germany would be a democratic state purged of nazism and Nazis.

He said he found the contrary development had taken place as time went on. It was the bitter reflection on this state of affairs during the July 20 ceremonies, on the anniversary of the plot against Hitler in West Berlin, that convinced him he should abandon West Germany, he added.

Dr. John said he had never been a Communist. He declared that in deserting to the East zone voluntarily he had obeyed his conscience just as he had done in 1933 when he undertook to oppose and fight nazism.

John Denies Being Communist

The former intelligence chief said he was not perturbed by the charges of treason being leveled at him in West Germany. The persons who made these charges were the same persons who had considered him a traitor for participating in the July 20, 1944, plot to kill Hitler, he declared.

Dr. John outlined his belief in a reunited Germany neutralized between the West and the East and not belonging to any military system of alliance. He said it was necessary for the German people to find a modus vivendi with communism because "communism, whether you like it or not, is a reality."

He declared the British had recognized this fact and were seeking to coexist with communism, whereas the Americans, driven by a fear psychosis, were

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John Asserts U. S.-Bonn Policies Will Restore Nazis to Control

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trying to organize and lead a military crusade.

Dr. John said he found the Americans during his six-week trip to the United States "down-right hysterically mad in fear of communism."

Dr. John contended that the United States policy to create a European army at all costs was helping the Nazis and German militarists back into the saddle. He described United States policy as primarily designed to recruit German soldiers for an anti-Communist crusade. The German militarists have other ideas on the role to be played by the future German army, he added.

"Dr. Adenauer and those militarists still in the background see the E. D. C. as an instrument to create a strong German army," he said. "This army would sooner or later absorb the other E. D. C. contingents, including the French army, through sheer physical preponderance. France and West Europe would again be taken over by German militarism."

Dr. John contended that once this objective had been reached the German militarists would destroy the Defense Community.

"All this means that a new attempt is being made to carry out the strategy of Hitler and his general staff, which aimed at conducting a war against the East from the basis of a militarily united West," he asserted.

"Because I knew this, I could no longer remain in West Germany without participating in the plot and becoming guilty of a crime against the German people."

Dr. John said Dr. Adenauer had accused him of saying he knew of secret agreements attached to the European Defense Community treaty whereas, in fact, he had never said anything of the kind. But he added that since Dr. Adenauer had raised the issue:

"I declare on the basis of what I learned as president of the Office for the Protection of the Constitution that there are such secret protocols to the E. D. C. treaty which Dr. Adenauer is trying to conceal."

Dr. John said he wanted to de-

vote himself to the task of ending "the unbearable partition of Germany."

The former intelligence chief said the revival of nazism and militarism in West Germany had attained dangerous proportions. He added that the number of former SS leaders and important Nazi security officials employed in the Federal Government's intelligence service and the semi-private organization headed by Reinhard Gehlen, former Nazi general, exemplified the current danger in West Germany.

Dr. John also named a number of prominent former Nazi generals and officials who once again were holding responsible positions in West Germany as proof of his contention.

The former intelligence chief said he had informed East zone authorities after his defection that he would tell them only what he considered to be politically necessary and not one word more. Dr. John presumably implied that he did not propose to betray professional secrets.

In reply to a further questioning Dr. John said Dr. Wolfgang Wohlgemuth, West Berlin physician who disappeared with him into East Berlin, had played only a minor role in the affair. He said he had only used the doctor's East Zone connections to cross the frontier.

He said he had been badly shaken when Wolfgang Hoefer, a United States counter-intelligence agent who committed suicide in West Berlin July 23, had told him that he (Dr. John) was being shadowed by United States agents. Herr Hoefer's suicide occurred three days after Dr. John's defection and four days after the conversation between the two men.